

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 25th November 1876.

THE *Howrah Hitakari*, of the 12th November, makes the following remarks on the Bill, which Mr. Bell asked leave to introduce into the Bengal Council, on the ghatwals and the ghatwali tenures of Bishenpore:—In case of the dismissal of a ghatwal for misconduct, his *chákrán* lands should be included in the estates of the zemindar, instead of being appropriated by Government. As to the power of awarding punishment, it is desirable that it should rather be vested in a punchayet formed for the purpose, and composed of a Government officer, the zemindar, and the sardar of the ghatwals, than in the Magistrate. Such a provision will prevent all discontent and oppression. It is a fact that every new law passed in this country is at first regarded with apprehension by the people; and care should therefore be taken to give no ground for dissatisfaction in connection with this Bill.

HOWRAH HITAKARI,
November 12th, 1876.

2. The *Sambád Bháskar*, of the 13th November, writes a lengthy editorial on the advisability or otherwise of continuing the office of Finance Minister to the Government of India. It is a subject which has recently elicited considerable discussion in the columns of the *Statesman* and the *Indian Mirror*. After reviewing the more important financial measures of Government since the creation of this office, the editor proceeds to remark that, in consideration of the many and arduous duties which demand the special attention of the Governor-General, the need of a Finance Minister will always remain; but the public interests require that the office be filled by a really able man brought from Europe, one who is thoroughly proficient in political economy and well versed in the affairs of different Governments; and his term of office should be made much longer than what it is at present; for it will take some length of time to be fully acquainted with the country and its people. He should hold office at least for eight years; and, to enable him to do his work satisfactorily, he should be afforded facilities for acquiring local information. These should be secured by the formation of provincial councils, whose duty it should be to aid him with advice and suggestions. A considerable advantage will also be secured by his making periodical examinations of the income and expenditure of the several local Governments and Administrations.

SAMBAD BHASKAR,
November 13th, 1876.

3. The same paper questions the correctness of the statistics given by Dr. Payne in his report on infant mortality in Calcutta. The description of a Hindu lying-in room, which forms the most important portion of the report, is hardly applicable in the case of the well-to-do classes, whose ideas and practices in this matter have of late years made considerable advance towards the promotion of sanitation. Even among the lower classes, the unhealthy practices condemned by Dr. Payne are fast disappearing. It must, however, be admitted that there yet remains much to be done in this

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respect both among the Hindus and Mahomedans; but this we hope to see accomplished with the progress of female education and the growth of a class of educated native midwives.

BISHWA SUHRID,
September 15th, 1876.

4. The *Bishwa Suhrid*, of the 15th November, makes the following remarks in an article, headed "Sir Richard Temple and summary trials":—Bengal is tired of the administration of Sir Richard Temple. Regarding but little the faults of the Magistrates subordinate to him, he approves of their actions, one and all. We are really gratified to hear the praise of a meritorious person; but it cuts us to the quick to find a wicked man praised, who, in the name of justice, abuses his authority and treats men as if they were beasts. Sir Richard has indeed won some degree of personal popularity by giving *Rhotas* parties, and by paying private visits to native gentlemen; but his public acts have been exceedingly unpopular. It were better, both for him and the people, if his administration had been conducted on just principles. As it is, he cannot free himself from the charge of a strong bias in favour of the Civil Service; and being a weak-minded person, much good to the country cannot be expected from him. To seek justice at his hands is quite ineffectual. He has lately recorded a resolution on the working of the system of summary trials, in which, adverting to the small number of appeals, praises have been lavished on the Magistrates. But one important particular seems to have escaped His Honor's notice, viz. the small percentage of summary cases which were appealable. Out of nearly 7,000 cases, there were about 6,000 from which no appeal could be had; and there is no knowing how these were disposed of. The Magistrates also take good care to make the appeal provisions nugatory, by passing such sentences as cannot be interfered with by a higher tribunal.

HINDU RANJIKA,
November 15th 1876.

5. The *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 15th November, remarks, in connection with the approaching Imperial Assemblage at Delhi, that Lord Lytton should be very careful not to wound the susceptibilities of the many personages who are likely to be present on the occasion. Another point to be noted is, that means should be used to impress the fact of the assumption of the Imperial title on the mass of the people, whom it is never sought to reach on the occasion of such events. Thus, for instance, the visit of the Prince of Wales, an event which has not had its parallel in India for centuries back, passed off without the generality of the people being the least moved by it. To the minor durbars, too, which are proposed to be held in all districts, Government should invite respectable persons, though they may not belong to the landlord class. The occasion should also be taken to establish a number of asylums for the helpless in all districts, according to the extent of distress that may be prevalent there. Acts like these will make the assemblage an event of general rejoicing, and one that will be remembered by the people for generations to come.

HINDU RANJIKA.

6. The same paper observes, in reference to the Possessory Titles' Act, that in spite of the many benefits that may be expected to accrue to the country from its introduction, it will also be productive of some injurious consequences, among which may be mentioned that of leading to an increase of false suits in connection with estates which are held as undivided joint property by several partners. Persons will also take advantage of the measure by putting themselves down in the registration forms as co-sharers of a property with which perhaps they have no connection. The editor then remarks on the tendency of all the legislation of Government at first to inspire the people with apprehension of evil. His further observations are almost the

same as were noticed in paragraph 20 of our report for the 11th November from the *Amrita Bazar Patriká*.

7. The *Rungpore Dik Prakásh*, of the 16th November, does not see what good will be attained by the holding of a costly assemblage at Delhi, especially at a time when a famine is raging in the Bombay and Madras presidencies; and adds that, because money is squandered in this way, Government finds it necessary to resort to oppressive taxation.

RUNGPORE DIK
PRAKASH,
November 16th, 1876.

8. The *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 16th November, is surprised to read in the resolution of the Lieutenant-Governor, on the working of the system of summary trials, that the people are satisfied with the measure. Complaints have been made on all sides, and there is not a single person who approves of the system. Yet all are said to be satisfied. The reports of Government are utterly untrustworthy.

BHARAT MIHIR,
November 16th, 1876.

9. Adverting to the needlessness of holding the Imperial Assemblage, the same paper observes that, if it be really impossible to abandon the idea, the utmost care should be taken to make the expense as small as possible. The minor durbars which are proposed to be held in every district ought certainly to be abandoned.

BHARAT MIHIR.

10. The same paper writes the following in an article, headed "What do we ask of Lord Lytton?"—(1) Lord Lytton should appoint natives of India to superior appointments in the public service. Government has long promised to do so, and it is time that the promise should now be fulfilled; (2) he should reduce the powers of the Magistrates in the mofussil, and put a stop to the invidious distinction of color which obtains in all departments of the Government; (3) he should grant freedom of discussion in the newspaper press, and seek to further their circulation. The reports on native papers should be published as formerly; (4) Bengalees should be admitted into the army; (5) disputes between landlords and tenants, which have now assumed a serious aspect, should be stopped; (6) a reformation of the Police Department is urgently required, and educated men should have inducements held out to take service; (7) the helpless and homeless and the poor emigrant laborers should be freed from the thralldom to which they are subjected at present.

BHARAT MIHIR.

11. Referring to the suggestion of the *Samáj Darpan*, that native editors should not send their papers to the Government Translator, on the ground that they are not furnished with the weekly reports, the *Moorshedabad Patriká*, of the 17th November, remarks that this proposition might well be adopted if it were a question entirely among ourselves, but to do so when Government is concerned, and we are but as slaves bound hand and foot, is not practicable. What, if the publication of any paper not sent to the translator, were prohibited?

MOORSHEDABAD
PATRIKA,
November 17th, 1876.

12. The *Moorshedabad Pratinidhi*, of the 17th November, asks Government, on the occasion of the assumption of the imperial title by the Queen, to remit the sentence of transportation on one Ishwar Chandra Dás, of Rajshahye, a lad of eighteen years, who was convicted by the District Judge of having murdered his wife. The public are fully satisfied as to his innocence.

MOORSHEDABAD
PRATINIDHI,
November 17th, 1876.

13. The same paper advises Government to stop the preparations for the forthcoming assemblage at Delhi, in consideration of the famine and other disasters that have of late befallen the people of India.

MOORSHEDABAD
PRATINIDHI.

HINDU HITOSHINI,
November 18th, 1876.

14. The *Hindu Hitoishini*, of the 18th November, makes the same observations as the above on the subject of the Imperial Assemblage.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
November 18th, 1876.

15. The *Grámbártá Prakáshiká*, of the 18th November, observes with regret that the well-to-do inhabitants of cities and towns obtain more benefits from the Government than the poor people who live in villages. This is generally the case, and so there will be perhaps no deviation from this rule on the occasion of the minor durbars to be shortly held in all districts. Respectable and leading men of cities and towns only will be invited, and in them only will works of public utility be constructed. But villages will not have any share in this privilege. We ask Government to seek to benefit the latter.

DACCA PRAKASH,
November 19th, 1876.

16. In spite of the beneficial object which the Possessory Titles' Act is expected to serve, the *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 19th November, fears that it will be productive of considerable inconvenience in encouraging false litigation among the zemindars, who are as a class much reduced at the present time. The editor quotes with approbation the sentiments of the *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, of the 9th November, noticed in paragraph 20 of our report for the 11th November.

SOMA PRAKASH,
November 20th, 1876.

17. The *Soma Prakásh*, of the 20th November, approves of the suggestion of its Beerbhoom correspondent, that Government should mark the the auspicious occasion of the Queen's assumption of the imperial title by a very noble and graceful act, the re-admission of Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee into the Civil Service, from which he was dismissed for a trivial fault.

SOMA PRAKASH.

18. In reviewing the more disastrous calamities with which India has been visited during the last 20 years, the same paper writes as follows:— These have taken place, since the Queen assumed the direct Government of India. The administration of the East India Company was singularly fortunate in this respect, being almost free from such visitations. These are, however, circumstances over which the Queen has no control; and we can console ourselves with this reflection. But what good has fallen to our lot, in connection with those matters which are at her disposal? During the rule of the East India Company, their friends and relations were the absolute governors of India. They exercised despotic powers, and, at almost every step, betrayed a partiality for men of their own race. The Europeans did just as they pleased, and there was no limit to their oppressions in the mofussil. The oppressors did not meet with condign punishment. We had hoped to see an end of this state of things during the Queen's government, but we have been disappointed. The oppressions of the Europeans in the mofussil continue much the same as before. The punishments occasionally inflicted are merely nominal, and serve only to encourage the offenders. The competitive Civil Service examinations, which were intended to remove these evils, have, unfortunately for the natives, proved a mockery. Several tricks were resorted to, and obstacles created, to prevent their success in the examinations; while those, who have overcome all difficulties and succeeded in passing, have not obtained any advantage thereby. They do not possess more power than that of a Deputy Magistrate. They also cannot, like the latter, try European criminals. The liberty of municipal government granted to the natives has also been a mockery. They can do nothing independently of the Europeans. Many natives of independent bearing do not, for this reason, like to be made members of a municipality. There are numbers of such matters, but it is idle to mention them here.

19. The same paper does not see why a tramway from Dhurmtollah to Bhowanipore should not be remunerative. Considering the large passenger traffic, which is carried on on this road at almost all hours of the day and night in hackney carriages, and the fact that the materials of the old tramway of the Commissioners, which proved a failure, are available, the advisability of giving effect to the proposed measure is clearly seen. We should, however, like to suggest that the line should extend as far north as Bag Bazar, thus embracing all the distance in Calcutta from which pilgrims always resort to Kalighat; and that the carriages should be drawn by a steam-engine and run frequently.

SOMA PRASAD,
November 20th, 1876.

20. The same paper regrets to notice the sentiments of some Europeans as to the right of the children of the soil to all superior appointments in the country. According to these, they have no such rights, as wanting in the requisite physical strength to secure them from the encroachments of others. So, curious to observe, physical strength is made the ground of all rights, and all other qualifications are utterly ignored. It should, however, be noted here that, with all their faults, the Mahomedans never denied this right of the children of the soil, nor did that conquering race, the Romans, ever do so. This idea is only held under the British Government.

SOMA PRASAD.

21. The *Sahachar*, of the 20th November, gives the following estimate of the services of Sir Stuart Hogg in connection with the Calcutta municipality:—It will be of course admitted by everybody that under his administration several improvements have been carried out in Calcutta; as witness the waterworks, the drainage system, the conservancy arrangements, the municipal market, and others. It is, however, always observed that, during his tenure of office, there has been an undue enhancement of taxation and extravagant expenditure; and what praise is he entitled to, considering the heavy cost of his works, while indications of his extravagance are patent on all sides? In fact, Sir Stuart Hogg as Chairman of the Municipality was not so remarkable for intelligence or ability as he was for display and grandeur. It was for this reason that, during his time, not one department was free from irregularity. A comparison between any Government offices and the municipal office cannot but strike one with surprise. In the former, the discrepancy of one pice in the accounts is not overlooked; while, in the latter, the expenditure of three or four lakhs of rupees were not accounted for. The construction of the new market, for which he has been so much applauded, was in fact due to his opponent, Mr. Roberts; but for whose arbitration in the disputes connected with this affair it would not now be in existence.

SAHACHAR,
November 20th, 1876.

22. The same paper dwells, in a lengthy editorial, on the ravages of the malarious fever in the towns and villages of Bengal; and regrets that attempts hitherto made to ascertain the cause of this terrible scourge have all been attended with failure. The editor then proceeds to make the same observations as those made by the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 9th November, and noticed in paragraph 16 of our last report.

SAHACHAR.

23. The same paper remarks with regret that the beneficial rule, under which officers are occasionally transferred from one station to another, does not seem to be applicable to some, who have obtained notoriety under Sir Richard Temple's administration. We, as well as our contemporaries, have repeatedly urged on Government the need of transferring Mr. Worsley from Mozufferpore. This man greatly frustrated the ends of justice in the case of Sitanath Mookerjee, and has ever since conceived a hostile feeling

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towards the Bengalis resident in the place, whom he is determined on injuring. Sir Richard Temple is gradually becoming unpopular by his policy of overlooking the faults of these oppressive officials.

BAHACHAR,
November 20th, 1876.

24. The same paper regards it as strange that Lord Lytton, unlike his predecessor during the late Behar famine, is wandering about the Punjab frontiers with a numerous and expensive retinue, when whole provinces in Southern India are visited with a dire famine.

QASID OR MESSENGER,
November. 13th 1876.

25. The *Qásid* attributes the present extensive rule of the English in all quarters of the globe to their love of travel and enterprise. From this the editor infers that God has designed man for travel, and never intended him to remain stationary in one place. To a non-compliance with the wishes of the Creator, the editor would therefore attribute the wretched condition of the people of Hindustan, who always cherish such a regard for the place of their birth as to resist all allurements of wealth to induce them to voyage to distant lands. This trait in the national character, combined with an ardent desire for ease, will ever prove a bar to their advancement and progress. But God be praised that, among the many benefits which we derive from the English, a desire for travel is now beginning to manifest itself; inasmuch as there are some who have been bold-hearted enough to undertake the troubles of a voyage. This change of habit is to be seen first amongst the Bengalis, and no less amongst the *Marwáris*, who have visited England, Arabia, and China. If this habit steadily grow and increase, we may expect to see the different products of Hindustan sold in the markets of America; and then we may likewise hope to be in friendship with the rest of the world.

QASID OR MESSENGER.

26. With reference to the recent despatch of Lord Derby to the Czar of Russia, this paper remarks that such intelligence will without doubt gladden the heart of every Mussulman. The editor goes on to say—We were always certain that our Government would continue its alliance with Turkey; and we were greatly surprised to learn of the ravings of some misguided Englishmen of a contrary opinion. It evinces no little wisdom in our Government that it cements more strongly the bonds of friendship with the Sultan—*first*, because the cause of the Turks is a just one, since the Servians were those who rebelled against lawful authority; *secondly*, the success of the Russians will be productive of many evils; *thirdly*, alliance with the Sultan will secure for the English the love and affection of four crores of its Mussulman subjects in Hindustan; *fourthly*, should Russia and Turkey have to fight, the Turks are not such cowards as to fly; for, although the kingdom of the Sultan was much perturbed after the death of Abdul Azíz, yet the Turkish soldiers made their enemies lick the dust, showing so much bravery that both the English and French journals were loud in their praise. Doubtless there will be a great war, when thousands and hundreds of thousands of Christians will perish by the sword; and if the English have any thought or anxiety for their Christian brethren, they will assuredly persevere in bringing Russia to its proper senses and place it in a right position; *fifthly*, the English merchants will not only suffer heavily in case of a war, but be entirely ruined; and therefore is it incumbent on the English to be on amicable terms with the Sultan. We applaud heartily the conduct of Lord Derby in this matter.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 25th November 1876.

JOHN ROBINSON,
Government Bengali Translator.

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending
the 25th November 1876.*

No.	Name	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Howrah Hitakarí" ...	Bethar, Howrah ...	Weekly ...	12th November 1876.
2	"Sambád Bháskar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	13th ditto.
3	"Hindu Ranjiká" ...	Bauleah, Rajshahye ...	Ditto ...	15th ditto.
4	"Bishwa Suhrid" ...	Mymensingh ...	Ditto ...	15th ditto.
5	"Bhárat Mihir" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	16th ditto.
6	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ...	Kákinia, Rungpore ...	Ditto ...	16th ditto.
7	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	Ditto ...	17th ditto.
8	"Moorshedabad Patriká" ...	Berhampore ...	Ditto ...	17th ditto.
9	"Moorshedabad Pratinidhi" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	17th ditto.
10	"Pratikár" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	17th ditto.
11	"Grámbártá Prakáshiká" ...	Comercolly ...	Ditto ...	18th ditto.
12	"Hindu Hitoishiní" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	18th ditto.
13	"Dacca Prakásh" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	19th ditto.
14	"Sádháraní" ...	Chinsurah ...	Ditto ...	19th ditto.
15	"Soma Prakásh" ...	Bhowanipore ...	Ditto ...	20th ditto.
16	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	20th ditto.
17	"Sulabha Samáchar" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	21st ditto.
18	"Samáchar Chandriká" ...	Ditto ...	Daily ...	16th, 17th, & 21st to 23rd Nov. 1876.
19	"Sambád Prabhákar" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	11th to 23rd November 1876.
20	"Sambád Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	16th to 23rd ditto.
21	"Jám-Jahán-numá" (in Persian) ...	Ditto ...	Weekly ...	17th November 1876.
22	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu) ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	18th ditto.
23	"Qásid, or the Messenger" (in Urdu) ...	Patna ...	Ditto ...	20th ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.

